





INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference PC 03 298 B	FOR FURTHER ACTION		cation of Transmittal of International Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
International application No.	International filing date (day/	month/year)	Priority date (day/month/year)
PCT/EP2003/008842	08 August 2003 (08.0	08.2003)	22 October 2002 (22.10.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or n E03C 1/086	ational classification and IPC		
Applicant	NEOPERL GM	ВН	
and is transmitted to the applicant a	ccording to Article 36.		national Preliminary Examining Authority
2. This REPORT consists of a total of	6 sheets, includ	ing this cover s	sheet.
amended and are the basis for	nied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets or this report and/or sheets contact and/or sheets contact administrative Instructions un	aining rectifica	on, claims and/or drawings which have been ations made before this Authority (see Rule
These annexes consist of a to	otal of 19 sheets.		
3. This report contains indications rela	ating to the following items:		
I Basis of the report			
II Priority			
III Non-establishment	of opinion with regard to nove	lty, inventive s	tep and industrial applicability
IV Lack of unity of in	vention ·		•
v Reasoned statemen	t under Article 35(2) with regar nations supporting such stateme	rd to novelty, in ent	nventive step or industrial applicability;
VI Certain documents	cited		•
VII Certain defects in t	he international application		
VIII Certain observation	ns on the international applicati	on	
Date of submission of the demand	Date	of completion	of this report
15 January 2004 (15.0	1.2004)	16	March 2005 (16.03.2005)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Auth	norized officer	
Facsimile No.	Tele	phone No.	



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Internation Polication No.
PC17EP2003/008842

I.	Basis	of the re	eport			
1.	With	regard to	the elements of the in	ternational application:*		
		the inte	ernational application as	s originally filed		
	$\overline{\boxtimes}$	the des	cription:			
		pages	•			, as originally filed
		pages				, filed with the demand
		pages		1-13	, filed with the letter of	01 December 2004 (01.12.2004)
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		pages pages			as amended (togethe	, as originally filed ar with any statement under Article 19
		pages			, as amended (togethe	, filed with the demand
		pages		1-14	, filed with the letter of	
	F 7	-			, med with the letter of _	01 December 2004 (01.12.2004)
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		pages				, as originally filed
		pages		10.00		, filed with the demand
		pages		1/3-3/3	, filed with the letter of _	01 December 2004 (01.12.2004)
	I	the seque	ence listing part of the d	escription:		
		pages				, as originally filed
		pages				, filed with the demand
		pages				
2.	the in	nternation e elemen the lan the lan	nal application was file its were available or fur guage of a translation f guage of publication of iguage of the translation	d, unless otherwise indicated nished to this Authority in the urnished for the purposes of the international application	I under this item. ne following language international search (under R n (under Rule 48.3(b)).	which is: tule 23.1(b)). y examination (under Rule 55.2 and/
	With preli	minary e contair filed to furnish furnish The st interna	xamination was carried ned in the international ogether with the internated subsequently to this ted subsequently to this tatement that the subtional application as fil	out on the basis of the sequence application in written form. tional application in compute Authority in written form. Authority in computer read sequently furnished written ed has been furnished.	ence listing: er readable form. able form. n sequence listing does no	ational application, the international t go beyond the disclosure in the l to the written sequence listing has
4.			the description, pages the claims, Nos.	d in the cancellation of: 14-22 15-26 g 1/7, 2/7, 6/7, 7/7		
5.		This repleyend	port has been established, the disclosure as filed,	ed as if (some of) the amend as indicated in the Supplement	dments had not been made, sental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**	ince they have been considered to go
	in th and 7	is report 10.17).	t as "originally filed"	and are not annexed to	this report since they do n	ation under Article 14 are referred to ot contain amendments (Rule 70.16
**	Any r	replacem	ent sheet containing su	ch amendments must be refe	rred to under item 1 and ann	exed to this report.



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Y EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/1003/08842

Supplemental Box

(To be used when the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient)

Continuation of: III.1

1.1 The present examination report refers only to the main request, a possible examination of the auxiliary request cannot be carried out in the course of the PCT procedure but only during a subsequent regional phase.



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Internati	ional application No.
PCT	03/08842

Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

Statement			
Novelty (N)	Claims	8	YES
	Claims	1-7, 9-14	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	8	YES
	Claims	1-7, 9-14	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-14	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: US-A-2002 007 94 71

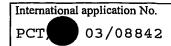
D2: CH-A-380 042.

- 1 INDEPENDENT CLAIM 1
- 1.1 Document D1 discloses (the reference signs and references relate to document D1):

a sanitary outlet fitting 200 having a fluid guide which discharges into a fitting outlet (see figure 1) near which a sanitary functional unit in the form of an insertable cartridge (see paragraph [0019]) is provided, wherein at least in the area of the opening of the outlet fitting the inside diameter of the fluid guide is adapted to the insertable cartridge (see figures 1, 11 and 12) and the insertable cartridge can be inserted into the fitting outlet from the opening side and can be removably held therein (see paragraph [0032]), and wherein the insertable cartridge is radially sealed along the periphery relative to an intermediate support 110 (seal 9, see figure 2; paragraph [0024]:



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"The sealing ring 9 is mounted at the recess 17 of the valve seat 1 ...") and/or the intermediate support is radially sealed relative to the inner peripheral side of the fitting outlet (see figure 11, the upper part of the thread 111 is a seal which is screwed into the fitting outlet and thereby radially seals the intermediate support relative to the side of the fitting).

Consequently, the present application does not meet the requirements of PCT Article 33(1), because the subject matter of two variants of claim 1 is not novel within the meaning of PCT Article 33(2).

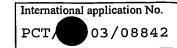
- 2 INDEPENDENT CLAIM 14
- Document D1 further discloses a sanitary functional 2.1 unit designed to be housed in an outlet fitting according to claim 1.

Claim 14 is therefore likewise not novel (PCT Article 33(2)).

- 3 DEPENDENT CLAIMS
- 3.1 The following dependent claims contain no features, which, combined with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the PCT requirements for novelty and inventive step (see the documents cited and the corresponding passages specified in the search report: D1, claim 2 (see figure 3: outlet 100, insertable cartridge 1), claims 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9 (engaging hook 16), claims 12 and 13 (see figure 11: upper part of the thread 111); D2: claims 10 and 11.



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- 3.2 The combination of features in dependent claim 8 is not known from or suggested by the available prior art.
- 3.3 The reasons are as follows:

To obtain the claimed function of the seal, that is to say, not to create a friction fit when the insertable cartridge is inserted into the fitting, the seal must be disposed at the outflow end of the insertable cartridge. This is not possible with the insertable cartridge of document D1 because water would flow out of the connecting holes for the fingers 16. Moreover, a person skilled in the art would not provide the intermediate support in document D1 with a seal of this kind because the thread receives the entire part insertable into the outlet and a seal in this area would weaken the connection.

Consequently, a person skilled in the art would not modify the device according to document D1 so as to arrive at the device according to claim 8 without thereby being inventive.